

CASE: 1208

31 AUG 93. (REF 12)

7 February 1994

ON 25-31 AUG 93, A JOINT TEAM RECOVERED A CRASH SITE AT GRID 49PBS7272080705. THE ITEMS RECOVERED WERE FROM A UH1D AIRCRAFT. THE RECOVERY OF AIRCREW RELATED ITEMS INDICATES AN AIRCREW MEMBER WAS IN THE AIRCRAFT AT IMPACT. (REF 13)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 2 NOVEMBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1209-1-02 (ACCNO 1480)	Status: (T) RELEASED	
Name: WILBER, WALTER EUGENE	Date Status assigned: 12 Feb 1973	
Nationality AMERICAN	Race CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit
Service NAVY	Sex MALE	Blood type
Grade 05	Hair BROWN	Complexion FAIR
SSAN	Eyes BLUE	Weapon
Serial No DATA	Height 71 in /1.80 mtrs	Weapon No
Birth date	Weight 162 lb / 73.4 kg	Duty pos PILOT
Home State PENNSYLVANIA	Religion PROTESTANT	PW Camp HANOI PW DETE

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

	INCIDENT LOCATION (0)	LAST KNOWN LOCATION (1)
Site Type:	CRASH SITE	
UTM:	48QWF301792	48QWJ883248
Lat/Long:	184821N / 1051709E	210125N / 1055059E
Country:	NORTH VIETNAM	
Military Region:	4	3
Mission Province:	NGHE AN	HA NOI
(formerly):		HANOI
Mission District:	THANH CHUONG	HOAN KIEM
Mission Date:	16 Jun 1968 1720L	
Mission Category:	3	\$
Local Analysis:	Populated area.	None.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Investigations: Jun 93  
Surveys: Jun 93  
Vessey Case: NO

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: F4J	Serial: 155548
Crash Type: Enemy action	Engine Type: J79
Call Sign: MILKVINE 101	1 Serial: #
Year: \$	2 Serial: #

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

# = Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.  
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## JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 2 NOVEMBER 1993

CASE: 1209

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

2 April 1976

## ===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1209-0-01 (ACCNO 5496) Status: (N) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED  
Name: NAME Date Status assigned: 11 May 1972

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	DATA
Service	NAVY	Sex	MALE	Blood type	O +
Grade	02	Hair		Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	DATA	Weapon	#
Serial No		Height		Weapon No	#
Birth date		Weight		Duty pos	RIO
Home State		Religion	CATHOLIC	PW Camp	\$

## ===== SITE INFORMATION =====

## INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: CRASH SITE  
UTM: 48QWF301792  
Lat/Long: 184821N / 1051709E  
Country: NORTH VIETNAM  
Military Region: 4  
Mission Province: NGHE AN  
(formerly):  
Mission District: THANH CHUONG  
Mission Date: 16 Jun 1968 1720L  
Mission Category: 3  
Local Analysis: Populated area.

## ===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Jun 88, Aug 87  
Investigations: Jun 93  
Surveys: Jun 93  
Vessey Case: NO  
Case type: DISCREPANCY  
Survivability: (4) Probably in the aircraft at the time of the crash

## ===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: F4J	Serial: 155548
Crash Type: Enemy action	Engine Type: J79
Call Sign: MILKVINE 101	1 Serial: #
Year: \$	2 Serial: #

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ON 16 JUNE 1968 CAPT WALTER E. WILBER, PILOT, AND NAME  
, RADAR INTERCEPT OFFICER (RIO), WERE FLYING AN F4J AIRCRAFT,  
(#155548, CALL SIGN MILKVINE 101), AS THE LEADER IN A FLIGHT OF TWO. THE  
TWO PLANES WERE ON A FORCE COMBAT AIR PATROL MISSION OVER THE GULF OF  
TONKIN WHEN THEY WERE SENT INLAND OVER NORTH VIETNAM TO REPEL ENEMY  
AIRCRAFT THAT WERE REPORTED TO BE SOUTH OF THE 19TH PARALLEL. CAPT WILBER  
ENGAGED A MIG 21 FIGHTER, AND HIS WINGMAN SAW THE MIG FIRE A MISSILE WHICH  
STRUCK CAPT WILBER'S AIRCRAFT IN THE REAR FUSELAGE AREA. THE PLANE CAUGHT  
FIRE AND CRASHED IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES (GC) WF 301 792.

NO PARACHUTES WERE SEEN, HOWEVER, THE PILOT DID BAIL OUT. VOICE CONTACT  
WAS NEVER MADE WITH NAME AND THE PILOT STATED HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT  
HAPPENED TO HIS RIO. CAPT WILBER WAS CAPTURED BUT LATER REPATRIATED TO THE  
UNITED STATES. HE STATED, AFTER HIS RELEASE, THAT HE NEVER SAW  
NAME'S PARACHUTE EITHER IN THE AIR OR ON THE GROUND, AND THAT THE  
NORTH VIETNAMESE NEVER GAVE HIM ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FATE OF  
NAME. DUE TO THE EXTREMELY HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT WHEN THEY WERE SHOT  
DOWN, NO SEARCH AND AIR RESCUE OPERATION COULD BE CONDUCTED. (REF 1 & 2)

A SOURCE REPORTED THAT IN APRIL 1967, HE OBSERVED A JET AIRCRAFT WHICH  
CRASHED IN A NEARBY FIELD AND BURNED AFTER IMPACT IN THE VICINITY OF GIANG  
SON VILLAGE, ANH SON DISTRICT, NGHE AN PROVINCE, ONE PILOT BAILED OUT AND  
LANDED IN THE VICINITY OF THE CRASH SITE. HE WAS CAPTURED BY LOCAL MILITIA  
AND FARMERS. AT THE CRASH SITE THE SOURCE OBSERVED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS  
JUNGLE GREEN IN COLOR AND THE CHARRED BODY OF ONE PILOT WAS STILL IN THE  
AIRCRAFT. (THIS REPORT PROBABLY RELATES TO THE LOSS OF WILBER NAME  
AIRCRAFT). (REF 3)

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED  
ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE.  
THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE  
FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION  
AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. NAME IS CURRENTLY CARRIED  
IN THE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

=== REFERENCES ===

2 April 1976

REFERENCES: <1> RPT , DEPT OF THE NAVY, RECORD OF CIRCUMSTANCES, 16  
JUNE 1968. <2> MSG , USS AMERICA, 161455Z JUNE 1968. <3> RPT ,  
OUSARMA, VIENTIANE, LAOS, IIR #6-856-0387-71, 30 NOV 71. <4> CJTFFA DET  
ONE BK TH 240354Z JUL 93. <5> CDR, JTF-FA/J2 210022Z OCT 93.

CASE: 1209

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

28 February 1986

A NEGOTIATION FOLDER ON NAME WAS PASSED DURING THE  
27-28 FEB 86 JCRC/VNOSMIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

4 December 1987

A CASE NARRATIVE PERTAINING TO NAME WAS PASSED BY JCRC  
ON 4 AUG 87 TO THE SRV EMBASSY IN BANGKOK PURSUANT TO AGREEMENTS REACHED  
BETWEEN GENERAL VESSEY AND SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

=== ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS ===

2 April 1976

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS: NAME 1209-0-01, AND WALTER E.  
WILBER 1209-1-02.

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

8 April 1976

CHG INCIDENT LOCATION FM WF 828 785 TO WF 301 792 BASED ON MSG CTG  
77.3 DTG 161105Z JUN 68.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

7 August 1993

ON 12 JUL 93, IE1 INVESTIGATED CASE 1209. THE TEAM TRAVELED TO THANH TIEN  
VILLAGE IN THANH CHUONG DISTRICT AND INTERVIEWED TWO FIRSTHAND WITNESSES  
WHO CLAIMED THEY PARTICIPATED IN THE CAPTURE OF THE PILOT. THEY REPORTED  
SEEING PIECES OF FLESH AROUND THE CRASH SITE. ALLEGEDLY NO ONE BURIED ANY  
REMAINS. THE TEAM SURVEYED THE CRASH SITE AND FOUND NO WRECKAGE REMAINING.  
AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE AT A NEARBY HOUSE MAY CORRELATE TO AN F4 AIRCRAFT. THE  
TEAM RECEIVED NO REMAINS DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE. (REF 4)

=== ARCHIVAL RESEARCH INFORMATION ===

28 October 1993

ON 17 DEC 92, THE SRV PROVIDED A DOCUMENT TITLED, "COMBAT ACTIONS OF THE  
VIETNAM PEOPLES AIR FORCE 1965-1972." LINE ENTRY #198 CORRELATES TO REFNO  
1209 BASED ON INCIDENT DATE AND AIRCRAFT TYPE. (REF 5)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING  
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 3 FEBRUARY 1994

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1209-1-02 (ACCNO 1480) Status: (T) RELEASED  
Name: WILBER, WALTER EUGENE Date Status assigned: 12 Feb 1973

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	
Service	NAVY	Sex	MALE	Blood type	
Grade	05	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BLUE	Weapon	
Serial No		Height	71 in / 1.80 mtrs	Weapon No	
Birth date	17 Jan 1930	Weight	162 lb / 73.4 kg	Duty pos	PILOT
Home State	PENNSYLVANIA	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	HANOI PW DETE

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

	INCIDENT LOCATION (0)	LAST KNOWN LOCATION (1)
Site Type:	CRASH SITE	
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Mission District:	THANH CHUONG	HOAN KIEM
Mission Date:	16 Jun 1968 1720L	
Mission Category:	3	\$
Local Analysis:	Populated area.	None.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Investigations: Jun 93  
Surveys: Jun 93  
Vessey Case: NO

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type:	F4J	Serial:	155548
Crash Type:	Enemy action	Engine Type:	J79
Call Sign:	MILKVINE 101	1 Serial:	#
Year:	\$	2 Serial:	#

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

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JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING  
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 3 FEBRUARY 1994

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: Status: (N) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED  
Name: NAME Date Status assigned: 11 May 1972

Nationality  
Service  
Grade DATA  
SSAN  
Serial No  
Birth date  
Home State |Religion |PW Camp \$

DATA

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: CRASH SITE  
UTM: 48QWF301792  
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Country: NORTH VIETNAM  
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(formerly):  
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Mission Category: 3  
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Survivability: (4) Probably in the aircraft at the time of the crash

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

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CASE: 1209

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NO PARACHUTES WERE SEEN. HOWEVER, THE PILOT DID BAIL OUT. VOICE CONTACT WAS NEVER MADE WITH NAME AND THE PILOT STATED HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS RIO. CAPT WILBER WAS CAPTURED BUT LATER REPATRIATED TO THE UNITED STATES. HE STATED, AFTER HIS RELEASE, THAT HE NEVER SAW NAME PARACHUTE EITHER IN THE AIR OR ON THE GROUND, AND THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE NEVER GAVE HIM ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FATE OF NAME DUE TO THE EXTREMELY HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT WHEN THEY WERE SHOT DOWN, NO SEARCH AND AIR RESCUE OPERATION COULD BE CONDUCTED. (REF 1 & 2)

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DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. NAME IS CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

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=== ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS ===

2 April 1976

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS: NAME , AND WALTER E. WILBER 1209-1-02.

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

8 April 1976

CHG INCIDENT LOCATION FM WF 828 785 TO WF 301 792 BASED ON MSG CTG 77.3 DTG 161105Z JUN 68.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

7 August 1993

ON 12 JUL 93, IE1 INVESTIGATED CASE 1209. THE TEAM TRAVELED TO THANH TIEN VILLAGE IN THANH CHUONG DISTRICT AND INTERVIEWED TWO FIRSTHAND WITNESSES WHO CLAIMED THEY PARTICIPATED IN THE CAPTURE OF THE PILOT. THEY REPORTED SEEING PIECES OF FLESH AROUND THE CRASH SITE. ALLEGEDLY NO ONE BURIED ANY REMAINS. THE TEAM SURVEYED THE CRASH SITE AND FOUND NO WRECKAGE REMAINING. AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE AT A NEARBY HOUSE MAY CORRELATE TO AN F4 AIRCRAFT. THE TEAM RECEIVED NO REMAINS DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE. (REF 4)

3 February 1994

ON 12 JUL 93, A JOINT TEAM INVESTIGATED A CRASH SITE AT GRID WG29977905. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY CRASH SITE. WITNESSES PROVIDED AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE CORRELATING TO A J-79 AIRCRAFT ENGINE. (REF 6)

CASE: 1209

=== ARCHIVAL RESEARCH INFORMATION ===

28 October 1993

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Service	NAVY	Sex	MALE	Blood type	
Grade	05	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BLUE	Weapon	
Serial No	539459	Height	71 in / 1.80 mtrs	Weapon No	
Birth date	17 Jan 1930	Weight	162 lb / 73.4 kg	Duty pos	PILOT
Home State	PENNSYLVANIA	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	HANOI PW DETE

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

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Mission District:	THANH CHUONG	HOAN KIEM
Mission Date:	16 Jun 1968 1720L	
Mission Category:	3	\$
Local Analysis:	Populated area.	None.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Investigations: Jun 93  
Surveys: Jun 93  
Vessey Case: NO

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: F4J	Serial: 155548
Crash Type: Enemy action	Engine Type: J79
Call Sign: MILKVINE 101	1 Serial: #
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=== ARCHIVAL RESEARCH INFORMATION ===

28 October 1993

ON 17 DEC 92, THE SRV PROVIDED A DOCUMENT TITLED, "COMBAT ACTIONS OF THE VIETNAM PEOPLES AIR FORCE 1965-1972." LINE ENTRY #198 CORRELATES TO REFNO 1209 BASED ON INCIDENT DATE AND AIRCRAFT TYPE. (REF 5)

4 May 1994

SIX PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE VIETNAMESE AIR DEFENSE MUSEUM IN HANOI POSSIBLY CORRELATE WITH REFNO 1209. PHOTOS ARE OF MUSEUM ACCESSION RECORDS 71M AND 72M (ROLL 317/FAME 02-05), A FLIGHT SUIT (ROLL 319/FAME 25) AND A SURVIVAL RADIO (ROLL 319/FAME 25). CORRELATION IS BASED ON THE MUSEUM ACCESSION RECORDS WHICH PROVIDE THE AIRCRAFT TYPE, DATE AND APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF LOSS. (REF 7)

THREE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE DIVISION 367 MUSEUM CORRELATE TO REFNO 1209. PHOTOS ARE OF AN ITEM RECEIPT (ROLL 46/FAME 00) FOR A PIECE OF WRECKAGE (ROLL 46/FAME 01, 02). CORRELATION IS BASED ON MUSEUM ACCESSION RECORDS WHICH LISTS TYPE AIRCRAFT, DATE AND APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF LOSS. (REF 7)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 19 OCTOBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1210-0-01 (ACCNO 5018) Status: (A) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED  
Name: BOWMAN, FRANK (NMN) Date Status assigned: 15 Oct 1974

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	NEGROID	Blood Chit	#
Service	NAVY	Sex	MALE	Blood type	O +
Grade	E5	Hair	BLACK	Complexion	DARK
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BROWN	Weapon	#
Serial No	4693985	Height	66 in / 1.68 mtrs	Weapon No	#
Birth date	15 Jul 1935	Weight	136 lb / 61.6 kg	Duty pos	CREWMAN
Home State	SO. CAROLINA	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: WATER SITE  
UTM: 48QYD305795  
Lat/Long: 165922N / 1070955E  
Country: OVER WATER - VS  
Military Region: \$  
Mission Province: QUANG TRI  
(formerly):  
Mission District: BEN HAI  
Mission Date: 16 Jun 1968  
Mission Category: 3  
Local Analysis: None.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Jul 93, May 92  
Investigations: Aug 93  
Surveys: Aug 93  
Vessey Case: NO

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: PCF 19	Serial: \$
Crash Type: None	Engine Type: \$
Call Sign: \$	1 Serial: \$
Year: \$	2 Serial: \$

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

# = Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.  
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.  
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.